

# MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE FARM ADVISER

News Notes from the Field of the Extension Service, Released for Publication Every Two Weeks  
From the Office of the Director of Extension.

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## THE INSPECTION OF NURSERIES

College Park, Md., Sept. 3.

The annual inspection of nurseries in the State by the officers of the State Horticultural Department commenced August 25th and will continue during September.

Fifty-eight certificates granting permission to sell plants, trees, shrubs, etc., were issued last year, and it is probably that this number will be slightly increased this year. The nursery business is quite an industry in Maryland, plants and trees of all kinds being shipped to all parts of the continent. When it is considered that one firm sells from fifteen to twenty million strawberry plants a season, and that another nursery has over 2000 acres devoted to nursery products, some idea is gained of this immense business.

The purpose of the State Horticultural Law requiring inspection of nurseries is to help the nurserymen in the detection and control of insect pests and plant diseases, and to safeguard the public against the unscrupulous nurserymen, and prevent distribution of diseased nursery stock of any sort.

It may be stated that the nurserymen of Maryland, as a whole, are co-operating actively with the department in the attainment of this end.

It should be remembered by the public that no nursery stock of any kind can be sold, or in any way distributed, except when accompanied by a certificate issued by the State officers during the calendar year, August

to August, printed on the tag accompanying the shipment.

Any case observed to be in violation of this rule should be reported to the officers of the department, and further, any diseased stock of any kind found in any shipment should likewise be reported to the department.

Professors T. B. Symons, E. N. Cory, C. E. Temple, S. B. Shaw, W. C. Travers, B. W. Anspen, J. R. Robertson and J. R. Christie are co-operating in the inspection work.

## CALVERT COUNTY FARMERS ARE GROWING MORE ALFALFA

College Park, Md., Sept. 4.

County Agent John H. Drury recently entertained Prof. Nickolas Schmitz and Assistant State Agent Reuben Brigham while they were visiting Calvert county in connection with demonstration work. Their time was divided between alfalfa and grass plots and boys' corn club acres, in both which lines of work Mr. Drury has spent considerable time. Especial interest is being shown at the present time in the growing alfalfa. Prof. Schmitz was much in demand by local farmers who were desirous of growing the crop. Prof. Schmitz made a thorough examination of the soil in every field he inspected. He called especial attention to the need of heavy applications of lime, of good drainage, of proper inoculation and of using American grown seed. Most lands in the county that were in any way fit for alfalfa growing Prof. Schmitz advised farmers would probably yield well on average for about three years, a few might last as long as 5 or 6 years. He was very careful to explain the exact needs of alfalfa and discouraged the attempt to grow the crop where soil conditions were not especially

favorable. The shell land that is to be found on the river farms of Calvert county, he declared, had no superior in the State as soils especially adapted to alfalfa growing.

## AGRICULTURAL AGENT IS SELECTED TO SUPERINTEND TALBOT COUNTY FAIR

College Park, Md., Sept. 3.

The directors of the Talbot County Fair Association have recently appointed County Agricultural Agent E. P. Walls as their superintendent. This is a new activity for the county agent in Maryland to engage in but the outlook for a genuine agricultural fair is decidedly encouraging, as Mr. Walls is in close touch with farmers in every section of his county and should be able to secure a strong exhibit of farm products, showing the best that the county can do. In view of the fact that State Agent G. H. Alford recently issued a circular on the value of a real country fair to a county in which it is held this practical application of the idea in his own State is particularly happy. A fair similar in nature to the one planned for Talbot county was held in St. Mary's last year, in which the local agent, Mr. Wathen, took an active part. In view of the fact that the sentiment for a clean representative agricultural fair is growing among the rural people of the State, it is good to know that actual progress along these lines is being made.

## AGRICULTURAL AGENT WILL PROBABLY BE LOCATED IN WICOMICO

College Park, Md., Sept. 2.

Over 150 representative farmers and other business men of Wicomico county appeared before their county commissioners on Tuesday last in behalf of securing a County Agricultural Agent. State Demon-



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION, MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, FOR THE YEAR 1911-1912.

The annual report of the Director of Extension, Maryland Agricultural College, for the year 1911-1912, is a comprehensive statement of the work done during the year. It covers the work of the Extension Service, the work of the various departments of the College, and the work of the various organizations connected with the College. The report is divided into two main parts: the first part contains a general statement of the work done during the year, and the second part contains a detailed statement of the work done in each of the various departments and organizations.

The work of the Extension Service during the year 1911-1912 was characterized by a steady increase in the number of extension agents and a corresponding increase in the number of extension lectures and demonstrations. The work of the various departments of the College was also characterized by a steady increase in the number of students and a corresponding increase in the number of courses offered.

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stration Agent Alford and local agricultural agents from the adjoining counties of Dorchester, Worcester, and Somerset were also at the hearing by request. They presented the work of the county agent in a most practical fashion, citing examples of the good accomplished in the adjoining counties mentioned. The Eastern Shore is becoming rapidly awake to the possibilities of progressive agriculture and the County Agent is a strong factor in this development. The farmer of today who does not avail himself of every advantage that the practice of up to date methods gives cannot plead an excuse that he has not heard of them or what is more to the point, has not seen them carried into successful practice in his own county and neighborhood. The meeting was adjourned for a final hearing on September 14, when the committee of the Wicomico county Grange co-operating with other representative farmers of the county will present their final arguments for an Agricultural Agent. The agents in adjoining counties are G. B. Porter of Dorchester, J. F. Monroe of Worcester, and H. S. Lippencott of Somerset.

#### COUNTY AGENT IS MAKING PROGRESS IN QUEEN ANNE COUNTY

College College, Md., Sept. 4.

The interest in growing alfalfa for any crop is especially keen in Queen Anne county, where County Agent H. S. Koehler is located. As a result of continued agitation for alfalfa in his demonstration, the acreage which he had estimated at 1,000 for this year's seeding will probably run up to 1,500 acres instead. One demonstrator reported during the past week that on a 20-acre field sown last year he had already sold from two cuttings \$800 worth of hay. This and similar experience of other demonstrators had had its effect in making Mr. Koehler's agitation for more alfalfa effective. "With the farmers of this county growing plenty of alfalfa," Mr. Koehler says,

"the prospect for seeing more dairy herds, cattle, silos, better barns, and more livestock generally is excellent. Combine this progressive type of farming with efficient farmer organizations and the outlook for the farmers of Queen Anne is very bright."

Significant of this attitude toward better farming method is what Mr. Koehler is able to report of the spirit among his corn club boys. "Large quantities of their corn, he states, has been blown down, but they all seem determined to stick it out to the end of the competition. Some of them have hauled several wagon loads of badly broken corn off of their fields, and are consoling themselves by figuring how much they might have made if the storm had not injured them. The cultivation of such a persevering spirit among our boys promises well for the solving of the many problems in the country life of Queen Anne county."

#### MARYLAND FARMERS URGED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH STATE SEED INSPECTION LABORATORY

College Park, Md., Sept. 2.

Farmers are being urged to protect themselves against inferior seed by having samples tested before seeding. Hundreds of dollars are wasted annually in the purchase of inferior seeds which no matter how well the land is prepared will not yield satisfactory crops. In this connection Prof. C. P. Smith, of the State Seed Inspection Laboratory issues the following warning to seed buyers.

Are you getting your share of any benefit from the Maryland Seed Law? Are your local dealers filling your orders for seeds with the bags or packages labeled as required by the law? Each package of a bushel or more should be labeled to show you what percentage of the lot is pure seed, what percentage is foreign seed, and what percentage is not seed at all, but made up of sticks, sand, chaff, etc., summed up by the words

"inert matter." How much trash and weed seeds are you willing to pay for? Some foreign matter must be expected, as practically no seed stocks can be made 100 per cent pure. Though the figures obtained from the analysis are necessarily "approximate" and cannot be expected to be "exact," they tell an important story, and should be noted carefully both when the seed is ordered, and when the same is delivered. See That You Get What Is Due You.

Also should be given on the label the percentage of germination, with the month and the year when the germination test was made. The dates are very important, especially in the case of Crimson Clover, where a stand cannot be expected if the seed is more than one year old.

If your dealer is not giving you all this information on a legible label attached to each package of a bushel or more, he is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by fine. It is not necessary for the seed inspector, or his representative, to be present or know anything about your case, for any citizen has the right to put the matter into the hands of his local State Attorney.

A citizen recently sent in a sample of timothy seed that he had on hand, "left over," asking for a germination test. The test was started at once and reported to him as soon as completed—50 per cent being the result. Are you planting seed that has not been tested more or less recently? If so, why? Free service is waiting for you at the Seed Inspection Laboratory at College Park. The laboratory cannot come to you; you must send in your samples, indicating what test or tests you desire to have made. It will cost you nothing but the postage and the trouble of getting the sample put up and mailed. Look up Maryland Experiment Station Bulletins 170 (p. 78,) 179, and 189, and get in touch with the Seed Inspection Laboratory.



